

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05838 031748Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 HA-05 NEAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/099 W

-----009439 031753Z /72

P R 031611Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2937
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION SINAI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 5838

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, IS
SUBJECT: WEST BANK MILGOV SACKED

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 1256; (B) TEL AVIV IR 6 849 0404 78

1. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT THE
REMOVAL OF THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE WEST BANK,
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID HAGOEL, FOR FAILURE TO VERIFY
REPORTS BY HIS SUBORDINATES ON AN INCIDENT AT THE BEIT
JALA SCHOOL SIX WEEKS AGO. THE INCIDENT, EXPOSED
SHORTLY AFTERWARD IN "TIME" AND WIDELY QUOTED IN ISRAELI AND
INTER-NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA, INVOLVED THE THROWING OF TEAR GAS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 05838 031748Z

GRENADES INTO CLOSED CLASSROOMS FILLED WITH STUDENTS DURING
A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ISRAEL'S LEBANESE INCURSION.
AT THE TIME, IDF SPOKESMEN DISMISSED THE ALLEGATION AS
AN EXAGGERATION OF A MINOR MISHAP. TWO OFFICERS DIRECTLY
INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT, THE BETHLEHEM MILITARY
GOVERNOR AND HIS DEPUTY, HAVE ALSO BEEN RELIEVED AND ARE
TO BE COURT-MARTIALED BY ORDER OF C/S EITAN ON CHARGES

OF ACTING IN VIOLATION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FALSIFYING THEIR REPORTS OF THE INCIDENT.

2. THE DISMISSALS FOLLOWED AN INVESTIGATION ORDERED BY DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN OF THE SCHOOL INCIDENT IN THE FACE OF PERSISTANT PRESS REPORTS CONTRADICTING THE IDF VERSION. LABOR MK YOSSE SARID REPORTEDLY HAD WRITTEN WEIZMAN AFTER THE INCIDENT URGING HIM TO CONDUCT HIS OWN INQUIRY. FOLLOWING A REPORT (REF A) THAT HAGOEL HAD JUST REPRIMANDED THE BETHLEHEM MILGOV (APPARENTLY A BELATED MOVE TO COVER HIMSELF IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WEIZMAN WAS LOOKING INTO THE AFFAIR), SARID DEMANDED THAT WEIZMAN NOT BE SATISFIED WITH A REPRIMAND. HOGOEL'S TARDY AND INADEQUATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND HIS HAVING BEEN (ALLEGEDLY) PARTY TO THE COVER UP OF THE INCIDENT SEEM TO HAVE INFURIATED WEIZMAN WHO REACTED BY IMMEDIATELY SACKING HIM. THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH PUNISHMENT EVER METED OUT TO A HIGH-RANKING ISRAELI OFFICER IN MILITARY GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION.

3. THE STORY RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN THE MEDIA AND FOUR PAPERS TODAY DEVOTE EDITORIALS TO THE SUBJECT. ALL STRONGLY CONDEMN THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE IN THE CLASSROOMS AND THE SUBSEQUENT COVER-UP AND PRAISE THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S DISCIPLINARY MOVES. MAARIV TYPIFIES THEIR INDIGNATION: "THE USE OF GAS GRENADES AGAINST SCHOOL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEL AV 05838 031748Z

CHILDREN IS A DISGRACE TO ITS PERPETRATORS, THE IDF AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL...IT IS HARD TO SAY WHAT IS WORSE, THE ACT WHICH VIOLATED INSTRUCTIONS AND HUMAN DECENCY, OR THE ATTEMPT TO EVADE RESPONSIBILITY BY FALSE REPORTING..."

4. HAGOEL HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF SOME EARLIER CRITICISM FOR HEAVY-HANDEDNESS, AND THE JERUSALEM POST ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONS COMPLAINTS AGAINST HIM OF "MALADMINISTRATION." WEIZMAN REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT ON THE WEST BANK. MANY THOUGHTFUL ISRAELIS ARE INCREASINGLY UNEASY OVER REPORTS OF IDF OVER-REACTION TO WEST BANK INCIDENTS. AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE, THE WEEK-OLD NABLUS CURFEW HAS BEEN CRITICISED AS NEEDLESSLY SEVERE AND LONG. IT IS HOWEVER TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER HAGOEL'S REMOVAL WILL MEAN A REAL CHANGE IN OCCUPATION POLICY.
LEWIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, PERSONNEL CONDUCT, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV05838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780189-0075
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780595/aaaaddnh.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ddf898a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JERUSALEM 1256, 78 TEL AVIV 6
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2798867
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEST BANK MILGOV SACKED
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, IS, (HAGDEL, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ddf898a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014